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WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL
March 5, 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Stalin's Illness

REFERENCES: A. NSC Action No. 728
B. Program of Psychological Preparation for Stalin's
Passing from Power (PSB D-24), dated November 1,
1952
C. Appendix A to NIE-64 (Part I)

The National Security Council and the Secretary of the Treasury at the 135th Council meeting on March 4, 1953 (NSC Action No. 728):

- a. Agreed upon the text of a Presidential statement on the subject, subsequently released to the press.
- b. Agreed that, as a matter of high urgency, the following reports should be prepared regarding the effect of Stalin's passing from power, with particular reference to the effect on Communist China and Yugoslavia:
 - (1) A new intelligence estimate by the Central Intelligence Agency.
 - (2) A statement of the policy implications by the Department of State.
 - (3) A plan for psychological exploitation of this event, prepared by the Special Assistant to the President for Cold War Operations, assisted by the Psychological Strategy Board and its staff.

Accordingly, the action in paragraph b-(1) above is transmitted for appropriate implementation.

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James S. Lay, Jr.
JAMES S. LAY, Jr.
Executive Secretary

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